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For Immediate Release
August 31, 2005

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Senate votes to keep sexual predators out of the classroom

LANSING - The Senate today approved legislation by state Sen. Nancy Cassis to enhance the safety of children by keeping felons and dangerous individuals away from schools.

“Parents and guardians will have a greater sense of security knowing that sex offenders are barred from classrooms and playgrounds,” said Cassis, R-Novi, vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee. “I am proud as a former educator to be a key sponsor and co-sponsor of this common-sense legislative package.”

The Student Safety Initiative is a multi-bill package that prohibits sex offenders from residing, loitering or working within 1,000 feet of a school. The legislation also revokes teaching certifications for convicted sex offenders and requires background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees. Anyone with a sex offense is prohibited from being employed in a school or day-care center.

Cassis sponsored Senate Bill 616 which sets sentencing guidelines for violators.

The measure now goes to the House of Representatives.

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